

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCI-06

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----- 002114

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SENV, MX

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLANNING WITH
MEXICO

REF: (A) STATE 61421; (B) MEXICO 553, FEB. 3, 1972;

(C) A-1024, JAN. 31, 1972; (D) A-152, OCT. 27, 1971

1. THE REVISED NATIONAL OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES
POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN WHICH IS AWAITING PUBLICATION IN
THE FEDERAL REGISTER PROVIDES, INTER ALIA, " DEPARTMENT OF
STATE WILL PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN DEVELOPING JOIN INTER-
NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLANS. IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE
IN COORDINATION WHEN A POLLUTION DISCHARGE TRANSECTS INTER-
NATIONAL BOUNDARIES OR INVOLVES FOREIGN FLAG VESSELS."

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2. USG HAS DEVELOPED A CONTINGENCY PLAN WITH CANADA COVERING THE GREAT LAKES AND ADDITIONAL PLANS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL COVERING OTHER BORDER AREAS HAVE ALSO BEEN PREPARED. HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO SUCH PLANS WITH RESPECT TO MEXICO ALTHOUGH THE POSSIBILITY OF SERIOUS SPILLS EXISTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER.

3. IN VIEW OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO RAISE ONCE AGAIN WITH GOM, AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL, MATTER OF INITIATING U. S.- MEXICO DISCUSSIONS WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE CONTINGENCY PLANS COVERING ALL BOD-ARY AREAS. WITH RESPECT TO INLAND WATERS, WE ASSUME THAT THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION WOULD BE THE PROPER VEHICLE FOR PLANNING PURPOSES. FOR OFFSHORE AREAS WE ASSUME THAT APPROPRIATE GOM AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WOULD BE INVOLVED.

4. THE DEPARTMENT AGAIN SUGGESTS THAT THE CONTINGENCY PLAN WITH CANADA COVERING THE GREAT LAKES COULD BE USED AS THE POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS. A COPY OF THIS PLAN WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE EMBASSY UNDER COVER OF REF. (D). A REDRAFT OF THIS PLAN IS IN PROCESS OF CLEAR-ANCE AND WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE EMBASSY WHEN APPROVED. THE REVISED U. S. NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN WILL ALSO BE SENT TO THE EMBASSY WHEN APPROVED. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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